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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR

1942.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

NEATH.

August 1943.

To: THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION
OF THE BOROUGH OF NEATH.

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit an interim Report, in accordance with the Welsh Board of Health's Circular 2604 (Wales), of the more important work carried out in the Sanitary Department during the year 1942.

STAFF.

Your Sanitary staff consisted of three Sanitary Inspectors and one Clerk :-

Mr. Evan Thomas, appointed Sanitary Inspector on the 1st January, 1924, and Chief Sanitary Inspector on the 14th November, 1935.
Certificated Sanitary and Meat Inspector.

Mr. E.V. John, appointed Sanitary Inspector and Inspector under the Shops Act, 1934, on the 20th May, 1935. He relinquished his duties under the Shops Act, 1934, on the 1st July, 1939.
Certificated Sanitary and Meat Inspector.

Mr. R.T. Probert, appointed Sanitary Inspector on the 1st March, 1936.
Certificated Sanitary and Meat Inspector.

Mr. T.G. Hopkins, appointed Clerk and Student Sanitary Inspector in the Department on the 5th April, 1937.
Joined the Forces 20th March, 1941.
Certificated Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. Graham T. Francis, appointed temporary Clerk in the Department on 21st March, 1941.
Joined the Forces 4th May, 1942.

Miss. Dilys Lloyd, appointed temporary Clerk in the Department on 1st June, 1942.

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The Law of Public Health and Housing was not materially altered during the year.

HOUSING INSPECTIONS

Number of houses inspected for defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts	1420
Number of visits of inspection in respect of same	2812
Number of houses found not in all respects to be reasonably fit for human habitation	306
Number of houses, rendered fit after service of Notices, including 55 which were in course of compliance at the end of 1941	310
Number of house subject to Notices at the end of 1942, the time given having not expired ...	51

DEFECTS FOUND DURING INSPECTION.

	Premises affected
Drains - Defective, absence of, defectively constructed, defective fittings.	30
Water Closets - Defective fittings, broken and defective pans, structural defects, and dilapidations of closet buildings.	22
Water Supply - No supply, defective and insufficient supply, defective fittings.	22
Paving of Yard Areas - Defective yard paving, defective dish to gullies.	27
General House Repairs - Dampness, defective roofs, rainwater troughings and downpipes, defective internal plasterings, walls, woodwork, light and ventilation, defective firegrates and chimneys, absence of, or defective food stores and coal stores.	178
Other Nuisances - Insanitary stables, pig styes and out-buildings, accumulation of manure, presence of rats and mice, smoke nuisance from domestic chimneys, house and trade refuse.	84

All the defects were dealt with under Public Health Acts.

It was not considered necessary to take proceedings in cases of default in complying with any of the requirements of Notices.

During the year 423 complaints, of which 166 were written, were made in respect of various nuisances.

NEW HOUSES.

The number of New Houses erected during the year :-

(1) By the Local Authority	0
(2) By other Local Authorities	0
(3) By other bodies or persons	0
	0

DISINFECTIONS DURING THE YEAR.

After cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever	77
After cases of Cerebro Spinal Fever	7
After deaths and removals (Tuberculosis).	4
After deaths from Cancer..	2
After deaths from other cases..	5
	95

DISINFESTATIONS DURING THE YEAR.

Slum houses, during displacement	0
Overcrowded houses, during de-crowding...	0
Council houses, reported infested...	2
Privately owned houses, reported infested	52
	54

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health :-

Premises	Inspections	Notices
Factories, with Mechanical power.	24	0
Factories, without Mechanical power.	90	0
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including out-workers' premises).	14	0
	128	0

Defects found :-

Particulars.	Defects.	Remedied.
Sanitary Conveniences (s.7)		
Insufficient.	0	0
Unsuitable or defective.	1	1
Other Offences.	0	0
	1	1

No list of out-workers was received during the year.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Applications were received at the commencement of the year for the re-registration of seven Common-Lodging-Houses, all of which are situated in the old Borough, as follows :-

Name of Keeper.	Address of Premise.	Reg. No. of Lodgers.
Mrs. Ann Sandham	1, Cattle Street.	47
Mrs. Agnes Bevan	5, Cattle Street.	18
Mrs. F.E. Edwards	10,Cattle Street.	12
Mr. Evan Rosser	68,Water Street.	12
Mrs. M. Powell	16,The Parade.	8
Mrs. Ann Sandham	1, Glamorgan Street.	16
Mr. W.J. Daniel	4, Commercial Street.	45
	Total	158

All the premises were found to be kept fairly satisfactory as regards their general state of cleanliness. These are old buildings and although they provide a want, at least temporarily, they cannot be described as suitable and hygienic for their intended purpose.

The provision of a hostel to accommodate those now living in Common Lodging Houses has been a subject of discussion from time to time. With the raising of the housing standards and the possible re-development of the centre of the town, this problem will again arise. In a town planning scheme it is advisable to bear this in mind.

It will be observed that the registered accommodation is 158, and on one "test night" carried out in June 1942, 103 were sleeping there, made up of 91 males, 9 women and 3 children. At three of the premises, in addition to the Keepers' family, there lodged one other family in each.

The Chief Constable issued 2003 tickets of admission to the Casual Ward at Lletty Nedd during the year, made up of Males 1979, Females 54; no children were admitted. It has been reported that the South Wales Vagrancy Board has recommended that all Casual Wards should be closed on 31st March 1943, and should this materialise, it is to be expected that the Common Lodging Houses will be their only place of nightly shelter.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT AND REGULATIONS.

During the year 145 samples were purchased and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis, 144 of which were taken formally and 1 informally.

Milk	84	Vinegar	12
Butter	19	Sausages	12
Margarine	6	Jam	5
Cheese	3	Chieftain Savouree	1
Lard	3		

Total 145.

Ratio of Samples to Population:-

Milk Samples	2.5	per 1,000 of population.
Other Samples	1.8	-do-
All Samples	4.3	-do-

ADULTERATED SAMPLES.

Series Number	Article	Nature of Adulteration	Observations
5	Milk	7.0% Extraneous Water.	Proceedings against Vendor £5 & Costs.
14	Milk	2.0% Extraneous Water.	Vendor warned.
16	Milk	2.2% Extraneous Water.	Vendor warned.
33	Vinegar	9.2% Deficient in Acetic Acid.	Proceedings against Vendor. Costs.
35	Vinegar	1.7% Deficient in Acetic Acid.	Vendor warned.
49	Milk	10.0% Deficient in Fat.	Proceeding against Vendor £2 & Costs.
50	Milk	2.0% Extraneous Water.	Vendor warned.
57	Vinegar	12.2% Deficient in Acetic Acid.	Proceedings against Vendor Dismissed Plea of Warranty.
72	Butter	14.0% Extraneous Water.	Proceedings against Vendor Dismissed Plea of Warranty.
78	Milk	1.8% Extraneous Water.	Vendor warned.
96	Milk	10.0% Deficient in Fat.	Proceedings against Vendor £1 & Costs.
134	Milk	2.0% Extraneous Water.	Vendor warned.
142	Milk	2.0% Extraneous Water.	Vendor warned.

Of the samples of Vinegar, Nos. 33, 35 and 57, were deficient in Acetic Acid to the extent of 9.2, 1.7 and 12.2 per cent respectively. The adulteration in the case of No.35 being slight, on the advise of the Public Analyst, no proceedings were taken: further sales from this particular cask were stopped and instructions issued for the return of same to the manufactuers for examination and for re-constituting. In the cases which were certified to be 12.2 and 9.2 per cent deficient in acetic acid, respectively, the case against the seller of the former sample was dismissed on a plea of "Warranty". Proceedings were therefore instituted against the manufacturers, who submitted their observations on the matter, and after consulting the Public Analyst, the summonses were withdrawn. The defendant in the other case, a first offender, was ordered to pay costs.

In the case of the butter sample, No. 72, certified to contain 14 per cent excess of water, the proceedings against the seller were dismissed on a plea of "Warranty", and subsequent proceedings against the wholesaler of the butter resulted in his being fined £16 and costs.

In accordance with practice, the Food Executive Officer was informed of all purchases, a description of the article being given and the price paid in each case, and where the purchases were rationed foods, coupons were utilised.

The one-third part of all sampled foods have been forwarded to the Matron, Cimla Hospital, for the use of the patients. I have received a letter from the Committee, Staff and Patients expressing their appreciation and thanks for the gifts.

The following is a summary of Samples purchased, the number adulterated and the number of cases in which proceedings were taken against the sellers during the year (1942):-

Nature of Samples	Number taken	Number Adulterated	Percentage Adulterated	Cases-Proceedings taken
Milk	84	9	10.71	3
Other Foods	61	4	6.55	3

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES ETC. IN FOOD) REGULATIONS 1925/1940.

The Public Analyst certified that of the 145 samples of Foods analysed by him during the year, 1 contained preservative, as follows :-

Series Number	Food	Preservative	Parts per million Present	Parts per million Permissible
66	Sausages	Sulphur Dioxide	83.2	450

These were declared as containing preservative.

Of the 145 foods examined, no case was discovered of a prohibited colouring matter having been used.

Of the six samples of Margarine, five were submitted as Special Margarine and one was submitted as Standard Margarine, they were all genuine and of good quality, and were free from any excess of moisture. An indicator is now added to Standard Margarine in order to distinguish it from Special Margarine, it was present in the Standard Margarine, but was absent from the five samples of Special Margarine.

REGISTERED BUTTER FACTORIES

Date of Registration	Situation of Factory	Occupier of Premises
8th Febry,1924	Quay Road, Neath.	Walter E.Chappell.
26th Janry,1937	15a, Orchard St, Neath.	William Elliott.
27th Janry,1937	11, Queen Street, Back Road, Neath.	Corner House Dairy & Cafe, Ltd.

The factory at Quay Road was in-active throughout the year, owing to the death of the principal, and the son who is in the Forces has requested that the registration of the premises should continue. In the case of the other two factories, the only blending that took place was the mixing of butter and margarine for their respective catering establishments.

ARTIFICIAL CREAM

There are no premises registered within the Borough for the manufacture of artificial cream, such articles being sold only as received in unopened receptacles.

It was noticed that its use has greatly increased, especially in connection with the flour confectionery trade.

CONDENSED AND DRIED MILK REGULATIONS,1923/1927

In no case, during routine inspections of stocks, deposited or exposed for sale, was the absence of, or incorrect declaration of, labelling detected.

There was an obvious increase in the sale of dried skimmed and condensed skimmed milks.

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT, 1926

The "Orders" as to marking of certain articles, made under this Act, were generally well observed. Those which may be enforced by Food and Drugs Authorities chiefly refer to foodstuffs of foreign and empire origin. It was apparent that most foreign produce, excepting that from America, was off the market, and that we relied chiefly on empire and home production. The national products e.g. butter, were in all instances found to be properly marked, although at one time difficulty was experienced in obtaining suitable wrappers.

MILK "SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS"

The following Licences for the retail of Graded Milks within the Borough were in operation during the year :)

Name.	Address.	Designation.	Licence.
Wm.Thomas & Son.	Gnoll View Dairy Neath.	Pasteurised.	Establishment.
B.Ferry & Neath Co-operative Society Ltd.	123 Neath Rd Briton Ferry.	"	"
"	"	T.T. Milk.	"
Portavon Dairies Limited.	Holland St, Port Talbot.	Pasteurised.	Supplementary.
"	"	T.T. Milk.	"
G.J.Edwards.	26 Winifred Rd,Skewen.	Pasteurised.	"
"	"	T.T. Milk.	"

Practically every vendor of milk in the Borough sells some quantity of graded milk, which is obtained at the Milk Marketing Board's depots situated in the area, but as it is not retailed as such, licensing is not obligatory.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The number of farms at which milk was produced in the Borough was 20, with an average of 200 cows in milk. There were 129 inspections of cowsheds made during the year. Of the 20 occupied buildings, 12 have been remodelled, although not strictly model byres. At least four others would have been completed were it not for the present emergency, and the remainder will probably go out of business in the near future. It was necessary, on several occasions to verbally complain of infringements of the Milk and Dairies Order, more particularly of the delay in the limewashing period, but in only one instance the serving of a notice was resorted to.

At the commencement of the year 83 retailers were registered for the sale of milk in the Borough. All the milk vendors were required to be registered at the local Food Office as well as by the Borough Council. The "zoning" of milk distribution in the Borough came into operation on the 1st. December 1942, resulting in the number of distributors being reduced to 58, as under :-

(a) Producer-Retailers resident in the Borough	11
(b) Producer-Retailers resident in Neath Rural Area.....	23
(c) Retailers (only) resident in the Borough.....	18
(d) Retailers (only) resident outside the Borough.....	6
Total.	58

There are also resident in the Borough, 5 producers who wholesale their milk to other retailers, and two producer-retailers not included in the "Zoning scheme", having a limited sale to surrounding cottages only. We have no milk bars in the area.

The change over brought along several complaints, most of which were imaginary, the evident ones were those of peculiar taste, and not having had pasteurised milk before and which has an acquired taste, is self explanatory. A few persons even complained of the condition of the overalls of their new milk - man, and this on a morning of continuous rain.

INSPECTION OF DAIRY CATTLE

The routine inspection of dairy cattle, operated by the State Veterinary Service, since 1st. April 1938, was carried out as hitherto. During the year, 7 cows from local dairies were placed under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, none of which were from registered premises within the Borough. The greater bulk of the milk produced at these dairies was retailed within your area, hence it is mentioned in this report.

It is the practice of the department to notify the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of all cases of beef, veal and pork carcases or parts of carcases condemned as being tubercular, with indications of ownership and collecting centre. Notifications in this respect for 1942 were 29 cattle, 5 calves and one pig, included in these were 3 cows and one calf from farms retailing milk in the Borough.

EXAMINATION OF MILK FOR TUBERCLE BACILLI.

Thirteen samples of bulk milk, collected during distribution in the Borough, were submitted during the year to the Public Health Laboratory for examination for Tubercle Bacilli, as under :-

Date.	Name & Address of Producer.	Tubercle Bacilli.
25/3/42.	D.Davies,Rogerley Farm,Kidwelly.	Present.
"	G.H.Griffiths,Gilfach Farm,Bryncoch.	Absent.
"	W.Davies,Leiros Farm, Bryncoch.	Absent.
29/5/42.	W.Williams,Gelligaer Fawr Farm,Neath.	Absent.
"	W.Davies,Leiros Farm, Bryncoch.	Absent.
"	J.Williams, Bryncoch Farm,Bryncoch.	Absent.
11/6/42.	D.Davies,Rogerley Farm,Kidwelly.	Absent.
30/7/42.	Mrs.M.Stephens,Preswylfa Farm,Neath.	Absent.
"	United Dairies Limited,Carmarthen.	Absent.
"	G.J.Rees,Cefnsaison Fach Farm,Neath.	Absent.
30/9/42.	T.Hunkin, Glannant Farm, Neath.	Absent.
"	W.H. Butler, Gringallt Farm, Neath.	Absent.
"	Glamorgan Farm School, Neath.	Absent.

The sample of milk (25/3/42) which gave the positive result was from the bulk supply of an attested herd at Rogerley Farm, Kidwelly, and collected at the dairy of a local dealer. The information was immediately sent to the County Medical Officer of Health of Carmarthenshire and to the Divisional Inspector of the State Veterinary Service, and resulted in the removal of the offending cow from the herd "Brenda No.19".

Further biological tests of the milk of the remainder of the herd were carried out both by the State Veterinary Service at the source, and during transit by the Public Health Laboratory (11/6/42), with negative results.

It will be observed that one of the samples (30/9/42) was submitted from the Glamorgan Farm School, following the removal of an affected cow from the herd, although all the milk produced there is for school consumption only.

In addition to the list given, a number of samples were examined by the officers of the State Veterinary Service, during routine inspections.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

During the year 107 samples of milk were collected and submitted for bacteriological examination to Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory, as follows :-

Description	Number Submitted.	Number Satisfactory.	Number Unsatisfactory.
Ungraded.	71	42	29
Pasteurised.	33	24	9
Tuberculin Tested.	2	1	1
Sterilised.	1	1	0
	107	68	39

The above results indicate percentage of unsatisfactory samples as Ungraded 40.8%, Pasteurised 27.2%, Tuberculin Tested 50.0%, Sterilised 0.0%, total all milks 36.4%.

There is a marked deterioration in the quality of milk offered for sale, the change being obvious during the years 1941 and 1942, and coincides with the period from which the reduction in man power operates and the demand for more milk instituted.

Below is given a comparative statement submitted to illustrate the lowering of standard referred to :-

Period	Samples Submitted	Number Unsatisfactory	Percentage Unsatisfactory.
1936-1940	385	94	24.4
1940	89	18	20.2
1941	104	38	36.5
1942	107	39	36.4

In accordance with the usual practice, the producers of the sub-standard and unsatisfactory samples were interviewed and instructed on the proper methods of production, storing and distribution of milk. In cases of successive unsatisfactory samples from the same source, chiefly from outside areas, the Medical Officer of Health of the respective district was communicated with. Several complaints were received, particularly during warm weather, of the poor keeping quality of milk and these mostly referred to what is known as factory milk. The difficulty of transport facilities was the primary cause of this, the milk being delivered the day previous to distribution, but with the onset of colder weather, the complaints usually righted themselves, even before the investigations were completed. In the cases of unsatisfactory graded milks, these were taken up with the Licensing Authorities concerned. There were a number of under-pasteurised milk samples, and on complaint being sent to the factory, a technical fault was discovered, which was righted, subsequent samples being satisfactory. A copy of the certificate issued by the Bacteriologist is sent to the person from whom the milk is collected for examination, and where collected at hospitals and schools, a report is sent to the Authorities of such institutions, in addition.

WATER SUPPLIES.

80 samples of water were collected during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, 79 for bacteriological and one for chemical examinations. Of those for bacteriological examination 59 were from dwelling houses, schools, hospitals, factories and public buildings on the Town Supplies, and 20 local springs, wells, streams, canals and public swimming pool. The sample for chemical examination was from the Ynysymaerdy Storage Reservoir. Water supplies from the Briton Ferry and Neath Reservoirs are filtered and chlorinated, whereas the supply obtained from the Ystradfellte Reservoir is chlorinated only. The water supply at the Briton Ferry Dock is obtained from the town mains. All the samples of domestic water were certified as being satisfactory and copies of all reports received were submitted to the Water Engineer.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The control of fatstock and meat continued under the Ministry of Food, having been so from the 15th. January 1940. Neath Mart is the recognised collecting centre for livestock, the Public Abbatoir being utilised for the slaughter of animals and for the storage and distribution of all home-killed and imported meat within the group areas of Neath Borough and Neath Rural District.

The duties of meat inspection are carried out exclusively by your Sanitary Inspectors, all of whom are certificated Meat and Food Inspectors. Slaughtering is in operation at irregular days and hours, which entails many hours of overtime and Sunday work. I am pleased to report that it was possible to maintain full inspection throughout the year. A record is kept of all animals slaughtered and of carcases, parts of carcases and offal condemned. The causes of condemnation are classified and enumerated on certificates issued to the Ministry of Food, and the procedure as to treating and disposing of condemned meat, complied with.

In consequence of the operation of Meat Control, the Public Abbatoir only was in use, the Cooperative Society's licensed private slaughterhouse at Kennel Row, Briton Ferry, which is the reserve premises, was not utilised.

The management of the Public Slaughterhouse was continued under a representative of the Ministry of Food. All animals slaughtered are stunned by means of mechanically operated instruments - calves, sheep and pigs, by the use of Simpsons Electric Stunner, and cattle with the "Cash Captive Pistol".

There were 18 persons, a reduction of 6 as compared with 1941, licensed as slaughtermen, 9 of whom were employed exclusively by the Slaughtering Contractors of the Ministry of Food. I am pleased to report that the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 were strictly observed.

The following is a record of the animals slaughtered at the Borough Slaughterhouse, during 1942 :-

Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
1007	624	2473	20,833	672	25,609

The undermentioned carcases, parts of carcases and offal, were found to be diseased or unsound and unfit for the food of man.

Cattle.

43 Carcases	597 Livers	48 Tails
2 Hindquarters	71 Hearts	47 Stomachs
14 Forequarters	143 Kidneys	102 Mesenteries
160 Heads	102 Skirts	85 Intestines
165 Tongues	42 Udders	60 Omentums
601 Lungs	101 Spleens	87 lbs. Beef.

Calves	Sheep	Pigs
7 Carcases	12 Carcases	3 Carcases
1 Hindquarter	13 Heads	2 Legs
2 Legs	1409 Lungs	51 Heads
6 Heads	1418 Livers	119 Lungs
14 Lungs	12 Hearts	99 Livers
29 Livers	12 Stomachs & Intestines	33 Hearts
10 Hearts	12 Spleens & Omentums	9 Stomachs & Intestines
9 Stomachs & Intestines	46 lbs. Mutton.	9 Spleens & Omentums.
8 Spleens & Omentums		
19 lbs. Veal.		

It will be observed that the amount of beef condemned continued unusually high, being principally through tubercular affection. Of the 1631 cattle slaughtered, 624 were cows, or 38.0 per cent, as compared with 2.0 per cent for the pre-control period. The percentages of beef condemnations due to tuberculosis showed an increase being 13.8 per cent for cattle excluding cows and 20.5 per cent for cows, as compared with 11.08 and 17.65 respectively, for the year 1941, whereas the percentages for other diseases remained almost constant.

The number of pigs slaughtered in the Borough for self-consumers during the bacon period October 1942 - April 1943 was 112, as compared with 82 for period October 1941 - April 1942. Licences covering same were issued, 96 Neath Borough, 7 Port Talbot and 9 Neath Rural. Of these 65 were slaughtered at the Borough Abbatoir and 47 on home premises, and it was necessary to condemn 4 heads, 2 lungs and one heart. All the carcases and offal were inspected, irrespective whether the slaughtering took place at the slaughterhouse or at home, and although none of the meat was for sale, the services of meat inspection were appreciated.

Proceedings were taken by the R.S.P.C.A., in respect of a case of cruelty and negligence to a cow and the owner was fined £10-0-0. This animal had been brought into the slaughterhouse suffering from extensive head injuries, one eye being missing and there were deep seated wounds filled with pus and gangrenous. The carcase was condemned, the infection having spread to the neck and foreleg and in addition there was generalised tuberculosis. I gave evidence at the proceedings on behalf of the Society.

Proceedings were also taken by the Glamorgan County Police against a dairyman for harbouring a cow on his premises and failing to notify its apparent diseased condition to the Police and/or a Veterinary Inspector. The case was heard at the Port Talbot County Police Court, at which I gave evidence for the Police, the defendant being fined £15-0-0 plus £5-0-0 costs. The circumstances of the case were that the cow, a reject from the Mart was brought in for slaughter. The carcase was emaciated, extensively affected with generalised tuberculosis, with advanced udder infection. As I considered a serious view should be taken of the case, the Medical Officer of Health, the Superintendant of the County Police, and the State Veterinary Surgeon were asked to see the carcase and offal. In my opinion, the fact that the animal had been in possession of the owner, on his own admission for about four years, and having regard to the emaciated and diseased condition generally, it should have been obvious to any person with experience in the care of animals, the necessity of reporting same.

It was necessary to draw the attention of the Food Executive Officer to the poor condition, due primarily to disease, of several animals received from various collecting centres. The matter was taken up with the Divisional Food Officer, who in turn got in touch with the authorities concerned, but the results of such action did not seem to carry us much further.

MEAT REGULATIONS,1924.

It was necessary to call the attention of several tradesmen to the unsatisfactory condition of their premises, whilst it has to be conceded that a difficulty is experienced in effectively lighting and ventilating same, no reasonable excuse can be made as to lack of cleanliness, especially with regard to the state of refrigerators used in connection with the business. Having regard to the limited hours that butchers' shops are open, no difficulty should arise in maintaining all such premises in a satisfactory and hygienic condition. A further cause of complaint was the failure of distributors to constantly wear overalls and headgear, and to keep meat properly covered, during removal from the slaughterhouse to the shops. This matter was taken up seriously with the haulage contractors.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed	1007	624	2473	20833	672	25609
Number Inspected	1007	624	2473	20833	672	25609
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS						
Whole carcases condemned	3	5	3	12	-	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	264	337	29	1434	124	
Percentage of Number affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	26.51	54.8	1.29	6.95	18.4	
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY						
Whole carcases condemned	16	22	4	0	3	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	123	106	1	0	64	
Percentage of Number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	13.8	20.5	.202	-	9.97	

BUTCHERS SHOPS.

These shops were systematically visited throughout the year, for purposes of meat inspection, particularly imported meat, pre-packed unrationed offal and ingredients used in the manufacture of smalls, and as to the observance of the Meat Regulations and Orders made under the Merchandise Marks Act governing the compulsory marking of meat. The marking of imported meat was not strictly complied with, and although an explanatory circular was prepared and distributed in 1941, in this connection, it is not generally recognised that meat, although rationed as a single product, if imported, must be marked as such.

On request, the undermentioned were condemned owing to unsoundness, etc., and were handed over for disposal to the Government Contractors :-

48 lbs. Imported Ox Tails 179 lbs. Imported Beef
$7\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Imported Mutton.

Other Premises Where Food is Sold Stored or Prepared for Sale

(1) Bakehouses:

The number of premises carrying on business remains the same as was noted in 1941, but one change in occupation of 54, Regent Street East, formally occupied by W. Taylor.

The bakehouses were on the whole found to be fairly satisfactory in respect of general cleanliness. Limewashing was overdue at several places, but it was at a time when lime for the cleansing of walls and ceilings was difficult to obtain. It was stated that they were also greatly handicapped by the shortage of labour. They were requested to exercise greater supervision of machinery and wood surfaces in use.

Several of the bakehouses have undergone extensive alterations and others are in course of being done so. About six premises are not altogether satisfactory as regards condition of repair, and being old buildings are fast becoming dilapidated. It is difficult at this time to carry out repairs or reconstruction to the extent desired, but as soon as the opportunity presents itself, it is hoped that the remodelling of these premises can be effected.

Lighting and ventilation is generally satisfactory, though difficulty is experienced because of black-out precautions. Washing facilities are provided to all but three of the bakehouses, the exceptions offer alternative facilities at their dwelling-houses, which are near by. The drainage and sanitary accommodation were with the exception of minor defects, found to be satisfactory. Water supply to all the bakehouses is from the town's mains.

Notices were served in respect of an insufficient water supply, one in respect of secondary means of access and three for disrepair of premises.

(2) Aerated Water Works:

The number of factories engaged in the manufacture of aerated waters and vinegars remained at five. These were kept in active production throughout the year. A scheme of concentration of the Soft Drinks Industry has been approved by the Ministry of Food, forming the manufacturers of same into an Association, and is expected to operate early in 1943. The manufacture of vinegar is confined to that of the artificial product only. All the works were kept satisfactorily and the water used at each was obtained from the public supply.

(3) Ice - Cream Shops:

The number of registered ice-cream shops was 50, 32 in respect of both manufacture and sale and 18 in respect of sale only. It was observed that the sale of ice-cream gradually diminished from 1941, an unavoidable sequence as a result of the prohibited use of milk and shortage of ingredients. During the first half of 1942, a few managed to retail a substitute, but later the manufacture and sale of ice-cream of any standard ceased.

Seven samples, all collected during the permissable period of the first half of the year, were submitted for bacteriological examination. Of these, five were prepared on premises locally, the remaining two were manufactured elsewhere and brought into the Borough for sale at two large stores.

The Bacteriologist certified five of the samples as being of good bacterial purity and two as being fairly satisfactory, as follows:-

Sample Number	Total Organisms	Bacillus Coli Content	Bacteriologist's Remarks
1	40,000	minus 1 c.c.	Satisfactory.
2	38,000	minus 1 c.c.	Satisfactory.
3	400	minus 1 c.c.	Satisfactory.
4	20,000	plus 1/10 c.c.	Fairly satisfactory.
5	11,000	plus 1 c.c.	Satisfactory.
6	9,200	minus 1 c.c.	Satisfactory.
7	75,000	minus 1 c.c.	Fairly satisfactory.

These were the best results obtained in respect of ice-creams since sampling was decided upon, and the absence of milk in their manufacture possibly accounts for the improved bacteriological quality.

(4) Fish Frying Businesses:

The number of fried fish shops carrying on business was 25, a reduction of two as compared with the previous year. Two changes in occupiers were noted during routine inspections of the premises, and had not been notified to the Authority as required by the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act. It seems that it will be necessary to give wide publicity to the requirements of Food Acts and Regulations, as during the present emergency the belief is apparent that these are either superceded or suspended by D.O.R.A. Generally, all the premises were kept in a satisfactory condition and verbal intimations were complied with. The attention of the department was again drawn to the abominable practice of greasy papers and chipped potatoes being strewn on the highway, particularly on the pavements, and which caused a danger through slipping to pedestrians. This nuisance could be minimised, to some extent, by placing street bins, distanced out, in the streets, the contents being recovered as food salvage for pig feeding.

(5) Fish Shops and Hawkers:

Particulars in regard to the number and class of retailer of fish and fish products remain the same as in previous years. Fish as an unrationed commodity, was in great demand, but with "zoning" and transport difficulties, the retailer and housewife were given many a troubled moment. The arrangement made with all retailers of immediately calling out attention to any doubtful fish received for sale, was acted upon explicitly, and it was necessary to condemn and destroy 5992 lbs. of fish and 20 lbs. fish-paste. The familiar scene of customers lining up was witnessed outside the fish-shops on two or three days each week. No complaints were received of offensive smells or of the dumping of fish offal, the hawking of fish was negatived by restricted supplies, and on the whole the business was satisfactorily conducted.

(6) Hotels, Restaurants and Tea Rooms:

Inspections were made of twenty-three such premises in the town, where good business was done, especially on the chief shopping days. Particular attention was given to the state of cleanliness of the kitchens, store-rooms and cafe buildings, of the state of the utensils and the manner that food was prepared, and of the sanitary condition of the premises, in general, including drainage, conveniences for patrons and employees, and the methods of storing waste food, pending collection.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Defects were discovered at five premises and included a kitchen being in an unsatisfactory state; untrapped waste pipes connected directly to drains; defective water-closets; unsatisfactory means of food storage and of disposal of waste food. No application was received for a certificate of exemption from the provisions of the Foot and Mouth Disease (Boiling of Foodstuffs) Amendment Order 1940 in relation to swill from such places.

(7) General Provision Shops and Stores:

The number of registered premises on which preserved food, i.e., boiled and roast meat, meat pies and faggots, intended for sale, were prepared, remained at eleven as hitherto. These were occasionally visited as to their hygienic condition and for the purpose of inspecting the food stored and in course of preparation on the premise. There was no cause of complaint, and it was observed that these businesses were on a limited scale. The grocery and provision shops, stores and warehouses were periodically inspected and were found generally satisfactory.

I am pleased to report that the arrangement made at the outbreak of the War with the Borough food traders, to immediately notify all cases of doubtful or suspected foods to the department, was continued throughout the year.

The work of sorting large consignments of damaged and partially unsound foodstuffs takes up a great deal of the time of the Inspectors. It will be appreciated that the condemnations indicated below are only a small proportion as compared with the quantities examined.

The arrangements for carrying out the work and the most suitable methods of disposal were not considered satisfactory, and it was considered advisable to ask proper direction from the Ministry of Food. As a result of representation made by the Food Executive Officer, a meeting was arranged with the Area Food Salvage Officer, which resulted in a satisfactory procedure being agreed upon for the future.

All Condemned foods containing fats are disposed of to Government Contractors for the abstraction of oil and grease, and unsound vegetables, fruit, flour and cereals are used up, as much as possible, as animal feeding stuffs.

At the request of various traders, the following foodstuffs were condemned and destroyed, or disposed of, as not to be used for human consumption:-

99	tins of Corned Beef
15	tins of Corned Pork
6	tins of Corned Pork & Tongue
146	tins of Pork Luncheon
6	tins of Ox Tongue
3	tins of Brisket Beef
44	tins of Pork Sausage Meat
570	lbs. of Sausage Meat
27	lbs. of Bacon & Ham
5¼	lbs. of Brawn
2	tins of Chicken & Ham
184	tins of Milk
34	Chickens
156	Rabbits
786	tins of Assorted-foods
9	ozs. Butter
256	lbs. Cheese
101	lbs. Jam
30	lbs. Sugar
19	lbs. Tea
240	lbs. flour
4	lbs. Cake
5¼	lbs. Roll Oats
32	lbs. Biscuits
3	Pkts Pudding Custard Powder
240	lbs. Self Raising Flour
51	tins table Dessert
28	lbs. Piping Jelly
8	Bottles Pickles
12	lbs. Spaghetti
30	Meat Pies
2256	lbs. Fish
20	lbs. Fish-paste.
75	Mats of Cabbage
42	Bags Brussel Sprouts
5992	lbs. Carrots
1568	lbs. Potatoes
394	lbs. Seed Potatoes.

The following foodstuffs were found to be deteriorated and not considered to be saleable in the ordinary way, and after consulting the Ministry of Food's Salvage Officer, were disposed of, as under :-

16 lbs. Margarine	...	Used in Manufacture.
16 lbs. Butter	...	" " "
22 lbs. Sugar	...	" " "
28 lbs. Cake Crumbs	...	" " "
32 tins of Milk	...	" " "
161 lbs. Cheese	...	Returned to Suppliers.
36 lbs. Tea		" " "
42 lbs. Corn Flour		" " "
1154 lbs. Sweets.		Certified for immediate sale.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

(1) Shops Act:

The provisions of Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934 relating to health and comfort of shop workers are enforced by the Sanitary Inspectors and the Council's Shops Inspector, and there is a complete understanding between the two departments, in this respect. During the year the Sanitary Department attended to several complaints of defective drainage and sanitary accommodation and one case of inadequate washing facilities.

(2) Barbers & Hairdressers Establishments:

These premises were periodically visited and with the exception of a few minor defects, there was little to complain of. A complete survey of all such shops was made in 1937 and this has been maintained, as far as practicable, every year since. The chief difficulty now experienced is the replacement of cloths and towels and shortage of equipment generally.

(3) Offensive Trades:

Applications were received for consent of extension for carrying on the trade of Rag and Bone Dealers from three firms and one application in respect of a Gut Scraper, all being granted for a further period of 12 months, as follows:-

Date.	Trade.	Address.	Owner.	Period.
1/3/42	Rag & Bone Dealer	The Latt, James St., Neath.	H.L. Prowse.	12 months.
"	-do-	4, Bankside, Neath.	D.J. Price.	"
"	-do-	Wernpistyll Rd, Briton Ferry.	Elias Evans.	"
"	Gut Scraper	Public Abattoir, Eastland Road, Neath.	W.J. Cabriel.	"

(4) Tents, Vans, Sheds, Etc :-

No trouble was experienced in connection with any such temporary structures, neither were the presence of any nomadic peoples occasioned throughout the year. Pleasure fairs were prohibited, but the field was utilised on several occasions for parking, and owing to the misuse and damage caused to the sanitary conveniences thereat, it was decided to close and secure same, until such time as they would again be required.

(5) Sanitary Accommodation of Cinemas :-

In accordance with Circular 120 of the Ministry of Health, and the Order of the Home Office, I beg to state that the Cinemas in the Borough have been periodically visited and a report submitted for the consideration of the Licensing Committee.

There are five cinemas, namely, Empire, Gnoll Hall, Windsor, Palace Kinema and Lodge Kinema, the first three being situated in Neath and the remaining two in Briton Ferry, with a total seating accommodation for 5,362 persons. I am pleased to report that the buildings were always found to be clean and satisfactorily kept. Certain improvements to the Gnoll Cinema, agreed upon by the Council in 1940, are suspended owing to present day difficulties. The Palace Kinema is still in use, pending the transfer of the Licence to the Public Hall, Briton Ferry, and here again, it is not anticipated that the work can be carried out during the War. It will be observed that there was no material change from previous years.

There were no complaints in respect of any of the halls, public buildings and billiard rooms, although these were actively used throughout the year.

(6) Sanitary Accommodation Ect., of Schools:

At the request of the Medical Officer of Health, as School Medical Officer, an inspection of the Borough Schools was carried out. It was primarily undertaken to determine the conditions existing as to cleanliness, heating, sanitary arrangements and the schools milk supply. The inspection took the form of contacting head-teachers, informing them of the objects of the visits and asking them to state their complaints and requesting their permission to examine class-rooms, staff-rooms, halls, cloak-rooms, woodwork and cooking centres, sanitary conveniences, yards, A.R.P and fire-watching depots. A comprehensive and detailed report on the conditions found at each of the schools was submitted to the Medical Officer of Health. In the early part of the year a special inspection was made of one of the schools, at the request of the Medical Officer of Health, arising from a complaint of insanitary conveniences and a report was submitted on same. The three private schools, two being commercial schools, were also visited and with the exception of some minor sanitary defects there was no cause for complaint.

(7) Licensed Premises:

All the licensed premises were visited, principally as to their sanitary accommodation for male and female customers. There were 64 public houses and 12 clubs licensed. The public houses are principally owned by three Breweries, only one being strictly a free house. All the sanitary fittings were generally sound, reasonable alterations have been attended to during the War, and several major improvements can be expected when labour and materials become available.

Women patronage is on the increase, and some of the houses are not provided with adequate closet accommodation and wash-basins for use, whilst the position of the conveniences at a few places is not conducive to privacy and good management. Cleanliness has become a problem in the larger premises owing to labour shortage, but on the whole, they are satisfactorily kept. The attention of several licensees was called to the need of limewashing of sanitary buildings. The clubs claimed to have maintained their membership, and the sanitary accommodation appeared adequate, in most cases substantially so, and others are taking all possible steps to modernise their structures and fittings.

(8) Rent and Mortgage Interest Restriction Acts,1920/1938:-

No application was received during the year for a certificate of the Borough Sanitary Authority as to the state of repair of any dwelling house which came within the Acts.

(9) Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919:-

Powers of administration were delegated to the Borough by the County Council in 1919. There were approximately 300 complaints received and dealt with during the year, procedure is by contact of the officers with owners and occupiers of infested premises, and bait at a cost of about £15-0-0 was used, no part of the expenditure was recovered from individuals. Notices in the form of pamphlets were distributed in the areas from which complaints were received and were exhibited on salvage and refuse collection vehicles and on public buildings. The Chief Sanitary Inspector is the responsible officer appointed to supervise the execution and enforcement of the Act. He is assisted by the two Sanitary Inspectors, and no remuneration is received in this connection. The infestations are sporadic and confined chiefly to refuse tips, open spaces, stables, yards, railways, and shopping centres, and those of an intermittent character with little permanence are the overflow into surrounding properties. There are no arrangements existing for the cooperation of other Councils or bodies, other than the Ministry of Food, neither was any complaint received from adjoining authorities, in this respect.

(10) Cleansing of Air Raid Shelters:-

Disinfection and cleansing of air-raid shelters was persued actively throughout the year, strictly on the lines as reported in the 1941 Report.

I regret that I have again to call attention to the use made of them by certain people. There is little improvement, although the matter was given great publicity in the "Press", and there is evidence that they are used as sanitary conveniences, even in daytime, and not by children. The general public are indifferent to their condition and it is left to the men engaged to continuously clean and work in repulsive surroundings, besides, the damage done to the structures and fittings is obvious and becoming widespread. It appears to me that the only deterrent is that the control of shelters should be a specific duty delegated to some person or persons in particular.

(11) Fire Service - Static Water Supplies:-

It was found that the various static water supplies in connection with the Fire Service were not properly cared for. During the year several complaints were received of offensive smells, especially during the warm weather, arising from stagnate waters. The attention of the officers of the National Fire Service and of the local Fire Watcher Service was drawn to the matter and they were requested to replenish the water periodically, both of static tanks and containers deposited on streets, and maintain same at all times in a sanitary condition.

HOUSING.

(1) Houses unfit for Human Habitation:-

No action was taken under Sections 9, 11, or 12, of the Housing Acts, 1936.

The total number of "Undertakings" accepted by the Council, arising from action taken under the Housing Acts, is in respect of 32 dwellings, of these 23 have been complied with.

No dwelling-house was voluntarily closed or demolished during the year.

(2) Slum Clearance:-

I have to report that the position with reference to progress made under your Slum Clearance Programmes is substantially the same as reported upon, in detail, in previous Annual Reports.

The following is a table of comparison between the provisional programme suggested in 1933, and that adopted in relation to Slum Clearance up to the end of 1939, the last year of permitted activity:-

	Areas.	Houses Involved.	Families.	Persons.
Provisional Programme (1933)	19	241	277	1,167
Slum Clearance Programme (1939)	37	423	459	1,917

The number of families in respect of which rehousing accommodation has not been provided for is 179. This figure is made up of the suspended building programmes of 1937, 1938 and 1939. It is here to be noted that the building contract in respect of the completion of the 1937 programme, i.e., for 98 houses and 4 flats at Westernmoor, remains suspended, but the roads and sewers in connection with same are constructed.

The number of houses which have not been demolished although empty and subject to Slum Clearance and Demolition Orders, 21. The consent of the Ministry of Health to licence the re-occupation of any such house has not been applied for. (Circular 2156. Ministry of Health. 24-9-1940). These properties present a difficult problem, as they offer an easy target to the destructive element, and the owners have to bear an added expense in protecting them.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS UNDER PROGRAMMES.

Position at 31st. December, 1941.

A. Clearance Areas:

Number of houses which have been demolished..... 189

Number of persons displaced..... 917

B. Other Insanitary Houses:

1. Number of dwelling - houses demolished as a result of formal procedure under Section 11..... 44

Number of persons displaced..... 170

2. Number of dwelling-houses closed but not demolished as a result of Undertakings (which have not yet been cancelled) by owners under Section 11. not to use the houses for human habitation..... 28

Number of persons displaced..... 111

3. Underground rooms and Parts of buildings closed under Section 12..... 12

Number of persons displaced..... 43

4. Number of dwelling-houses made fit as a result of formal Notices under Sections 9-12..... 14

It will be observed that it has been possible to displace 1241 persons, under Slum Clearance activities, but there still remain 179 families in o ccupation of houses, which are subject to confirmed Slum Clearance and Demolition Orders. The continued occupation of such dwellings, although unavoidable, constitutes one of the most difficult problems we have to contend with. In most cases a commendable patience is exercised, but in others, the department has to face a perpetual barrage of criticism. The most that can be done in such cases is to maintain the houses and amenities in as reasonable a condition as possible, and this is done with difficulty, as the owners very much resent a continual expenditure on uneconomic property.

It has also to be noted that 50 families, comprising 347 persons were removed to 50 houses erected at Cringallt Site which had been built for the purpose of decrowding, and as a number of vacancies have occurred there from time to time, a further 5 families of 32 persons have been housed.

OVERCROWDING 1942.

Particulars of Overcrowding

Table 1. Overcrowding Records.

Ward.	1936 Families.	1936 Persons.	1942 Families.	1942 Persons.
North.	186		95	552
South.	142		62	373
Briton Ferry.	84		31	194
Council Houses.	25		18	132
	437	2553	206	1251

Table 11. New Cases during the year:

Ward.	Families.	Persons.	Size of Families. 3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	12.
South.	-	-	1.	1.	2.	3.	1.	-	2.	1.	1.
Briton Ferry.	-	-	-	1.	-	2.	1.	1.	1.	-	-
Council Houses.	-	-	-	-	-	2.	1.	1.	-	-	-
			1.	2.	2.	7.	3.	2.	3.	1.	1.

Table 111. Reasons for New Cases of Overcrowding:

	Families.
Increase in the ages of the children.	9
Increas in the size of the families and ages of children.	6
Return of married daughters with children; husband in the Army.	3
Inaccurate information given during the Survey.	1
Taking in sub-tenants.	3
	22

Table 1V. Decrowded Families 1942:

Ward.	Families.	Persons.	Size of Families. 3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
North.	15	96	1.	2.	3.	2.	3.	1.	1.	2.
South.	10	54	-	5.	1.	1.	2.	-	1.	-
Briton Ferry.	7	34	1.	3.	1.	1.	-	1.	-	-
	32	184	2.	10.	5.	4.	5.	2.	2.	2.

Table V. Methods of Abating Overcrowding:

	Ward. North.	South.	Briton Ferry.
Left the houses for others in the Town or other places.	12	5	4
Reduction in the size of the Family.	3	1	2
Sub-tenant left the house.	-	4	-
Family given a Council House.	-	-	1
	15	10	7

Table VI. Position of Overcrowded Houses 31st. December 1942.

Ward.	Houses Involved.	Persons in Houses.	Families Overcrowded.	Persons Involved.
North.	145	697	95	552
South.	101	505	62	375
Briton Ferry.	48	244	31	194
Council Houses.	24	148	18	132
	318	1592	206	1251

The above tables indicate a decrease of 231 overcrowded families as compared with the figure obtained during the 1936 Survey, and that during the year 22 new cases were discovered. The figures give a fairly accurate position of overcrowding, based on the standards provided in the Act, and it is to be appreciated that there is a greater mobility of the population, for obvious reasons. There was observed a number of cases of temporary overcrowding, occasioned by visiting relatives, especially those from bombed areas.

HOUSING STATISTICE, 1942.

(1) Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :-

1 (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). 1420

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. 2812

2 (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. Nil

(b) Number of inspection made for the purpose. Nil

3	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	Nil.
4	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	395.

(2) Remedy of defects during the year without the service of formal Notices :-

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	89.

(3) Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	Nil.
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	306.
2. Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :-	
(a) By Owners.	310.
(b) By Local Authority.	Nil.
(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.	Nil.
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.	Nil.

(4) Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a) 1. Number of dwellinghouses overcrowded at the end of the year.	206.
2. Number of families dwelling therein.	318.
3. Number of persons dwelling therein.	1592.
(b) 1. Number of new cases of Overcrowding reported during the year.	22.
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases.	149.

(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. 32

2. Number of persons concerned in such cases 184

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. Nil.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

(1) Number of Council Houses found to be

1. Infested..... 2
2. Disinfested..... 2

Number of other houses found to be

1. Infested..... 52
2. Disinfested..... 52

(2) The procedure employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs, both for Council and privately-owned houses, and the after-care methods adopted, were as reported in previous Annual Reports.

GENERAL.

(1) Housing:

There are several areas which can be scheduled for "Slum Clearance" and included as annual programmes, providing that such a procedure is to continue after the War. In this respect 500 houses have been considered, priority of areas to be later determined, and it is to be appreciated that this estimate does not include those parts which may be involved in future re-development schemes.

Possibly a 100 houses are likely to fall in the category of "Individual Unfit Houses", over a period of, say ten years.

It is estimated that 150 houses could be built for relieving overcrowding, in the post-war period. In arriving at this figure, known overcrowding in slum areas has been deducted from the total known cases in the Borough. The "standard" outlined in the Housing Acts is considered too low and has been commented upon in many authoritative quarters, therefore it is possible that a higher standard may be introduced.

During the Overcrowding Survey of 1936, 1489 families were found living under apartment conditions. Since the survey, it is reasonable to assume a reduction, as seen in the population returns (1936 - 32,260) - (1942 - 29, 933), and to ensure a house for each family, irrespective of its size, a further 1000 houses would probably be required.

Houses or flats at low rental would be of financial help to aged persons. As an experiment, the building of one storey houses could be executed, on suitable land in the Borough, conveniert to shopping and social amenities.

The management of Housing Estates will be an important function of local authorities in the future, with the extension of housing sites, there will be need for continual and constant supervision as to maintenance, repair, cleanliness, and control of tenants.

An opportunity is afforded to all in the consideration and planning of the Borough and may it be so carried out as to win the approbation of future generations.

(2) Dilapidated Buildings:

It was not possible to undertake much action in respect of these buildings, during the year. They constitute a serious nuisance and harbour vermin, in particular rats. In many instances, material has been removed and used in making good other properties, thus leaving the old buildings more dangerous and dilapidated than before. The consideration of this matter will have to be one of urgency, as soon as opportune, and labour for the purpose is available.

(3) Housing of T.B. Patients:

Of the 61 cases registered for consideration, 25 have been housed in Council houses, 5 have died at their homes, and 31 remain to be considered. It is to be noted that two cases were removed to Council houses during the year under review, as a consequence of vacancies thereat. The suspension of building has hampered our activity in this respect, and it is sincerely hoped that an early resumption will enable this work to be continued.

(4) Smoke Nuisances:

No action was taken by the department, during the year, in relation to the emission of smoke as would constitute smoke nuisance.

(5) Infestation:

There was a marked increase in the number of complaints respecting infestation of houses by bugs, fleas and ants. The seasonal weather had, possibly, something to do with their increased activity. As previously reported, the excuses offered were varied and in some cases amusing. The number of dirty houses discovered during inspections is also on the increase, especially evident where cases of scabies are reported from. This steady increase may be due, in some measure, to the custom of perpetually blacking-out bedrooms, and probably to the fact that mothers engaged on war-work are not giving the required attention to their homes. The work of disinfestation is difficult and tedious, having regard to the facilities available, and the need of a cleansing station is obvious and essential to the district. I am pleased to report that it was possible to steam-disinfect on behalf of commercial and industrial undertakings, the National Fire and Civil Defence services, etc., 1139 blankets, 102 beds, 64 pillows, 60 overalls, and 18 other articles, no charge was made, the owners delivered to and collected from the disinfecting station.

(6) Food Poisoning Cases:

During the year two cases of alleged food poisoning were reported.

(a) Case occurred at Briton Ferry. The affected persons, father, mother and child were removed to hospital. Samples of various foods found on the premises, such as the remains of meals taken, were submitted for examination. The Bacteriologist certified that there was no evidence of bacterial food poisoning or of metallic poisons. The family quickly recovered from their illnesses.

(b) Case occurred at Neath. Two persons, husband and wife, were reported upon, and were treated at home. It was alleged to have been caused as a result of consuming cooked ham. Three other occupants of the house had also eaten some of the ham and complained of being unwell, but not seriously affected. The supplier was interviewed and it was revealed that one other complaint had been received by him of the ham having caused slight illness, but this person could not be traced. It was not possible to collect any portion, either at the house or shop, for examination. All the sick persons made a rapid recovery from their indispositions.

It is significant to note that eight cases of alleged food poisoning have been reported in the Borough, between 1939 - 1942, occurrences which were previously practically unknown.

(7) Food and Drugs:

The 5 samples of various jams submitted for analysis were all certified as being "Full Fruit Standard".

An unusual complaint was received of flour mites found crawling up a shop-front window. On investigation, it was found that a large number of packets of custard powder were affected. The whole of the stock, by agreement, was returned to the wholesalers at Swansea, and the Swansea Public Health Department were informed accordingly. As a result of our action, the whole of the stock at the warehouse, including those returned from Neath, were disposed of as not to be used for human food. The shop at Neath was disinfested and no further complaint was received.

It was observed that there was a greater number of malt vinegars on sale, than had been for some time, although there were still a goodly number of artificial or non-brewed vinegars about, and in some cases the price asked exceeded that for pure or malt vinegar. I repeat what I have stated in previous reports, that it is opportune for the Ministry of Food to control the price of vinegars, in the interest of all concerned.

T.B. Gland Cases:

The investigation as to the milk supply in cases of Tuberculosis (non-pulmonary) notifications, introduced by the Medical Officer of Health in 1941, was carried out throughout the year. Fourteen cases were investigated, the source of the supply since and before "zoning" ascertained, and samples of the milks submitted for biological examination. It was not found practicable to trace the cases on Milk Marketing Board and United Dairies Limited and other heat treated factory milks. Further it is to be observed that practically every producer-retailer during some period of the year obtains a quantity of factory milk from the recognised depots for making up dificiency of supply. In addition, the State Veterinary Service was informed of each notification, as received. Two cases were possibly the result of consuming milk from the attested herd reported at the bottom of page 10 of this report. In all, as a result of joint action, three cows were destroyed under the T.B. Order 1938.

Special Sanitary Matters:

In accordance with your instructions, your three Sanitary Inspectors attended a course of lectures and demonstrations held at the County Health Laboratory, Cardiff, in connection with the treatment and testing of Emergency Water Supplies. The department is provided with Water and Poisonous Metals' test outfits for such purpose.

The Borough Engineer carried out the work of providing a water supply for domestic purposes to 28 dwelling houses. This was occasioned owing to the difficulty of obtaining material and satisfactory labour, the whole being executed at the cost of the respective owners. His department also carried out reasonable repairs to roof and closet building of one dwelling house, in default.

A complaint of flooding in Penrhiewtyn Street, was reported in December last, it was found that several houses had water in their back kitchens and yard areas. Further inquiries solicitated that other areas in the Borough were affected during the same period, namely parts of the low lying streets at Briton Ferry. The cause of the flooding was attributed to the combined heavy rainfall and high tides on two successive days.

During the year three drainage complaints were investigated, viz., (a) brook near Caewern, (b) Hillside and (c) Post Office underground telegraphs at Penrhiewtyn, and extensive work was carried out in their correction.

War Activities: as outlined in previous Annual Reports.

I desire to express my thanks to the members of the Town Council, the Medical Officer of Health and all the officials of the Corporation for their assistance. I also wish to express my sincerest appreciation of the help, support and loyalty of Mr. E.V. John, Mr. R.T. Probert, Mr. G.T. Francis and Miss. D. Lloyd.

I am,
Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

EVAN THOMAS.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.